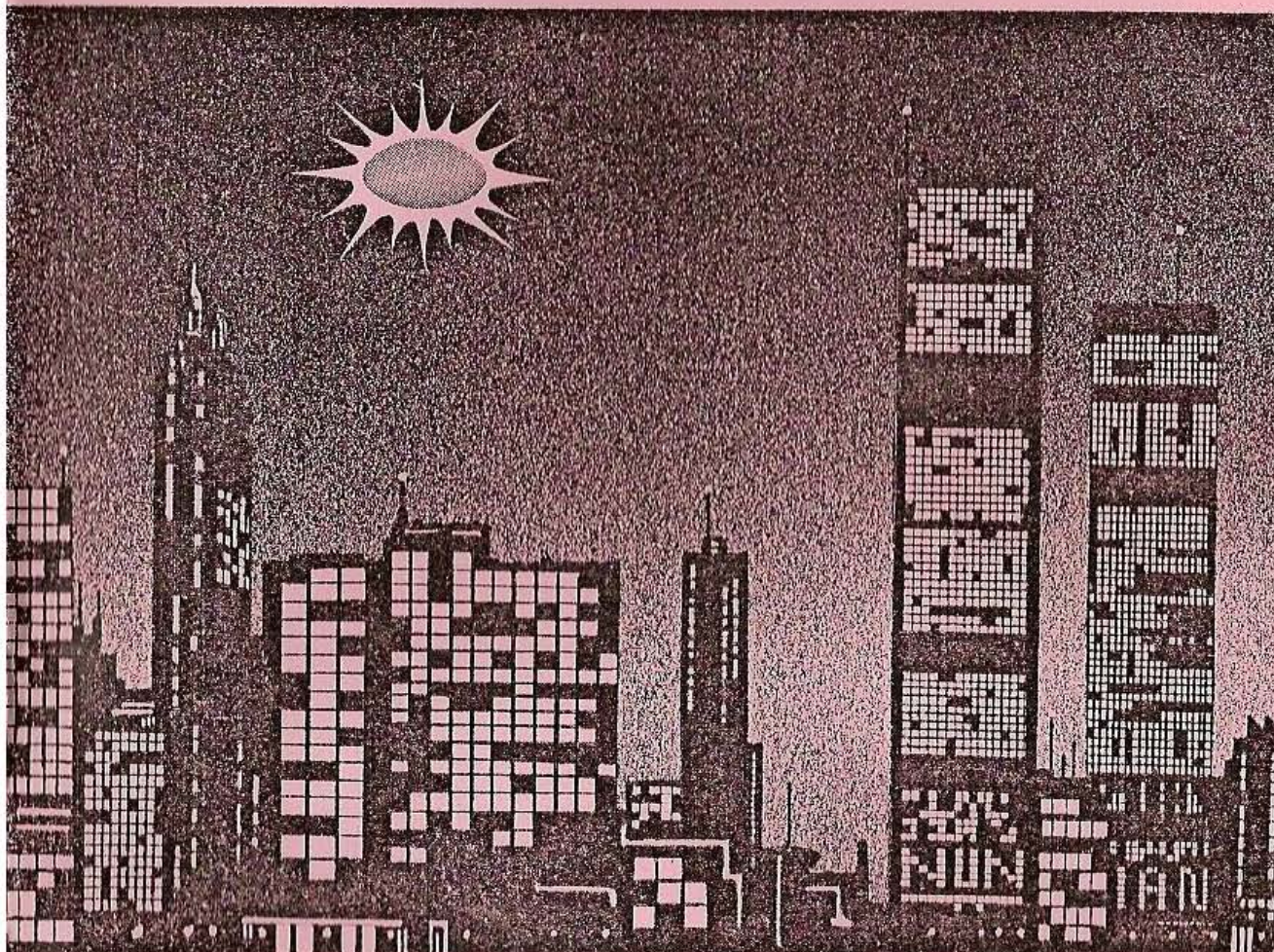


NORTHERN NEWS

UFO



Publication of NUFON...

UFO RESEARCH NORTH

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J.R. Comments...

Press cuttings about UFOs increased threefold during July 1983. But there was no new wave. It was all thanks to a media circus which bears some discussion. I think the headline given by the Swindon Advertiser (Jul 19) is very apt.... "Fraud of the Rings!"

I must admit that the events of this month have rather shaken what little faith I had left in the Media, where UFOs are concerned, and severely dented my impression of the average British UFO buff. Indeed I have been astonished by the number of investigators, whom I consider to be intelligent, who asked me what I thought of the Wiltshire circles 'mystery'. Astonished because they displayed an ignorance of the excellent investigation/research carried out over the past two years by Ian Mrzyglod of PROBE. His work with meteorologist, Dr Peter Meaden, has been published (in both PROBE REPORT and THE UNEXPLAINED, to name but two) and ought to have meant no serious ufologist would be unprepared for a new outbreak of circular madness.

Very briefly this work set out to ascertain if there could be a natural explanation for the very regular circles of flattened corn (or barley) which were found in fields in Wiltshire, especially near the infamous Warminster! Nobody saw a UFO create these marks. They were just found. But in Warminster what other answer could there possibly be? With Peter Meaden's help it was (at least to my mind) categorically proven that the circles were the product of wind-vortexes. Short-lived, stationary whirlwinds. These form most often in the lee of hills after hot weather and tend to stand out in corn-fields at this time of year, July/August, principally because the tall, coloured crop easily shows such traces. Once this was demonstrated for the previous circles, past UFO records indicated this phenomenon had long occurred. FSR (and many national papers) carried accounts 20 years ago. In the hot summer of 1976 NUFON had recorded some visual observations that were now very evidently whirlwinds (both stationary and on the move). And it was even speculated that so-called "UFO nests" (especially prevalent in Australia a few years ago) were probably created in the same way.

This was marvellous UFO research. A credit to the subject. What is more it afforded predictions. Each July/August there was the probability that similar marks would turn up and, in a climate of UFO madness, be grossly misinterpreted. It happened!

On Monday, July 11 it seemed like all the national dailies in Britain were calling me requesting quotes. I spent hours getting more and more frustrated, telling them the same story over and over, with varying degrees of credulity on their part. The marks had reappeared (as they had every July/August since 1980) in a farm at Westbury, Wilts, the week before. This year, however, they were more remarkable. Instead of the usual three rings there was a large central one, 45 feet in a diameter, and four smaller ones, arranged in a perfect compass-point pattern around it. Each one was very regular and contained corn swathed in a clockwise motion. Luckily Ian Mrzyglod had communicated this news to me and explained that, despite the unusual pattern, Dr Meaden was still satisfied the stationary-whirlwind hypothesis made sense. It goes without saying that nobody in Wiltshire had seen a UFO causing the marks. Indeed nobody had even reported a UFO anywhere near the place of their discovery, either in time or space.

The Wiltshire Times (Jul 8), who set the media ball rolling, simply reported that "Theories Buzz over Corn Circles". They did say "the pattern, according to "UFO believers", resembled "the landing pads of a giant flying saucer." But much more time was spent on farmers theories that varied from helicopter downdraft, through "deer acting out their mating instincts" (???) to "the weather". (There had been a spell of hot sunshine). The next day the Western Daily Press were less conservative. "Watch out! Martians are back." they rather presumptuously told their readers. Locals were apparently "keeping an eye out for little green men". This had to be the birth of a lovely national silly-season story. And it was the Daily Express who had picked it up first and whose Jul 11 page three (!) story pictured a pin-up of ET, a fine aerial photo of the rings, and the heading "ET-Phone the Express", by Jack Hill (for coincidence lovers Virginia Hill wrote the Western Press item and Hills are, it seems, crucial to the genesis of the phenomenon - both the real one and the media one!)

The Express used the fact that Westbury lies within "the famous Warminster Triangle" as the excuse for the ET explanation. It is "to UFOs what Cowes is to yachting". Perhaps I have been asleep for a few years but I have never heard of this "famous Warminster triangle" - have you?

The next day (Jul 12) local media announced the discovery of some new marks (exactly like those at Westbury), this time at Winchester, Hampshire (in previous years Hampshire, including the Isle of Wight, have produced rings too). By now the media, plus often cited, but never quoted, "UFO enthusiasts", were the only ones promoting the ET theory. As the only investigators to whom the nationals had spoken had told them what I had, I think it highly likely these 'enthusiasts' were invented by the media. This was the fraud. Anyone who did not accept the whirlwind theory (which the initial farm owners always had!) believed it now to be a deliberate hoax. This is possible (especially in the second case) but unlikely, as the first photographs at Westbury clearly show no trace of other marks that inter-connect the rings. If it were a hoax it would take remarkable dedication too - the sort that only the national newspapers seemed to have by this point!

The Express this day carried two articles. One "We've found enough white holes to sink a flying saucer" (curious use of mixed metaphors there!) reviewed the other circles and added new theories (including hedgehogs making love!!) It also alleged (rather hopefully I think) that the nation was "holding its breath" awaiting ET. I was quoted with the whirlwind explanation. On an inside page could be found a picture of Lord Clancarty. He told how "430 unexplained sightings" have occurred in Warminster and speculated that ley-lines and a landed spaceship were the answer. I shall skip lightly over this, but would like to hear from anyone who can direct me to these 430 super cases, because I seem to have slept through them too. I was happy with the extensive quotes made from what I told them, explaining why Warminster has its reputation, discussing UAPs, and the cause of the circles. Jeremy Gates is to be congratulated for first-class truthful representation. As for elsewhere. Well! I turned down the offer to appear on the IBAs 'Breakfast TV' when it was made clear what they intended to do with the item. And the Daily Star, under the heading "It's All Hot Air!" announced "Star solves UFO riddle".... What was the source of this amazing discovery? It seems, just as I told their reporter Charles Langley to do when he clearly did not believe my whirlwind answer, they spoke to the Met. Office in Bracknell and were informed that the answer was... wait for it... whirlwinds! (Perhaps that heading should have been BUFORA solves the UFO riddle, or the Met Office does... but then we are not fighting all the other newspapers are we?)

When on July 13 the Western Daily Press (now also speaking of the "Warminster triangle") finally decided to interview Dr Peter Meaden, and he showed with due simplicity why the answer had to be whirlwinds, then that should have been that. Sadly, not so. For Ken Rogers, quoted for the British UFO Society, maintained that a vigil was to be kept at Warminster... "I am sure these circles mean something spectacular will happen this year", quoth he. He was followed by the intrepid David Briggs who became a member of "the UFO cult" (ugh!) after a personal sighting. He proposed the use of infra-red photography to show up the outline of the object that had caused the rings. Speaking in the Winchester Gazette (July 14) he seems to have rather missed the boat as surely he would not expect any heat traces to still be there.

That day Jean Rook visited the circles again for the Express. Her lovely, poetic article romantically came out in favour of ET (largely, it seems, thanks to a poppy she found in the middle of the big ring) (All say, aaah)

More circles have continued to turn up, as they will now that people are looking for them. Oxfordshire has some now. Yet the media fuss seems to have died. But for how long?

Meanwhile an investigator (who had travelled 200 miles to see the circles) wrote to attack my "ridiculous" remarks in the press and demanded an explanation. He actually told me, "before you make silly statements to the press make sure you know what you are talking about". For him ET clearly was the culprit... but I did ask (so far without reply) if he might not find it slightly peculiar that with the now several circles in existence nobody had seen a UFO anywhere near them, either before or since their appearance. You can be sure if they had the media would have loved it. Skeptics take note. A media hype of the most extreme kind did not create masses of spurious sightings. Not even one sighting. Interesting eh?

Perhaps the saga of the rings did some good after all.

Jenny Randles

NEWS ROUND-UP



∴ It is nice to be able to announce that the Australian Centre for UFO Studies, which coordinates most serious research in that country, have adopted a slightly modified version of the Code of Practice for mandatory use amongst their workers. Dare we hope that Britain and Australia is just the starting point?

:: Those of you who find it hard to afford UFO books will certainly appreciate Bob Girard's ARCTURUS BOOK SERVICE (263 N Ballston Ave, Scotia, NY 12302 USA) Some marvellous bargains on old and brand new books.Well worth a look at his latest comprehensive booklet.It will be sent by airmail free if you request it.

:: Walter Reid of the Junior UFO Club has a new address. It is now:-
15 Belle Isle Circus Belle Isle Leeds West Yorkshire LS10 3DU

:: Finally a request for Kevin McClure, currently researching a project into the famous Fatima, Portugal, visionary experience. He would appreciate hearing from anyone who has obscure information on this affair or who knows of any pre-1940 references to it:- c/o 56 Ring Road LEICESTER LE2 3RR

This is also the new address for the invaluable magazine COMMON GROUND.

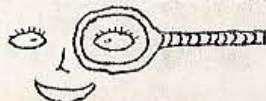
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PROJECT GATA UNDERWAY

Project GAIA is a new project, largely initiated by Paul Devereux following the publication of his important book "Earthlights". It involves Ufologists, earth mystery researchers, ASSAP members and geologists, amongst others. Phase One (now in operation) involves the geiger monitoring of stone circle sites throughout Britain. This will produce maps (with dummy sites used for comparison checks). Work should be completed by early 1984. Phase Two will involve properly equipped skywatch operations. These will take place at prime target circles (as the survey suggests), plus other prime target geological sites (where there are no stone circles), plus some dummy sites for comparison work. This phase of the project will hopefully be operational from Spring 1984, and will rely heavily on assistance from ufo investigators (ie YOU!). Two subsidiary projects within the GAIA compass involve attempts to create recordable PK effects by (a) creating earthlights under control conditions and then (b) using psychic subjects to attempt some degree of manipulation. (This has commenced also). The other scheme involves a full statistical reworking of the UFO event-fault line-geological trigger hypothesis. This is only partially underway and Jenny Randles, who is coordinating this, would welcome any helpful suggestions.

Offers of help for all phases of GAIA would be most welcome. Those wishing to work at circle sites in monitoring, or to assist in the PK effects aspect, should contact Paul Devereux. Those wishing to participate in the skywatch programme or the statistical correlation work should contact Jenny Randles..... A.S.A.P.

Paul Devereux 7 Rhiwlas Terrace Llanfyllin Powys SY22 5AD
Jenny Randles 9 Crosfield Rd Somerville Wallasey Wirral L44 9EH

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FOR YOUR PERUSAL: -

Major articles elsewhere

UPIAR RESEARCH IN PROGRESS Vol 1-2 (E15,US,3 issues PO 11221,I 20110,Milan,Italy)
Winner of the 1983 US award for the best contribution to UFO research.This is the first international scientific UFO journal (in English).Issue 2 (88pp) is a vast improvement on issue 1 and contains reports on the radiation levels in bright lightbeam cases, solid light phenomena,the Livingston case and ball lightning and some excellent and invaluable extensive bibliographies (eg photo analysis).Superb.

BUFORA BULLETIN June 1983 (Subscription C/O 30 Vermont Rd London SE19 3SR)
Best issue for some while. Full report on Ken Phillips investigation of the March 1982 Milton Keynes PCs sighting. Paul Norman updates the investigation on the vanishing of Australian pilot Frederick Valentich. Nigel Watson discusses a 1926 sky phenomenon in Yorkshire. Betty Wood on UFO abduction imagery....plus more.

Cont...

is put under regression hypnosis (now better understood) where he 'identifies' with Chekhov and 'relives' the journey through him. (This interesting technique is probably feasible now...what would happen, for instance, if someone well briefed were regressed into the skin of Mantell as he climbed to confront that UFO in his plane???) (I can see ufologists busily hurrying off to their local hypnotist!)

However, problems emerge with the experiment when Chekhov starts to take an interest in the Tunguska explosion. This (again) is a real event. But it happened in 1908, much later, and after Chekhov was dead! The frustrated film crew try to sort things out by using progressive hypnosis on their actor and sending him a little into the future when the puzzle is solved. But it is not that easy!

Watson has some fascinating ideas about hypnosis and reversion and a new theory about the Tunguska event to boot. It is well worth taking a look at.

HOW REAL IS REAL? By Paul Watzlawick Souvenir Press h/b, 266pp, 1983, £8.95

This is a fascinating and highly original book by an American psychiatrist. It probes our concept of reality by looking at communication...paradoxes, translation errors, attempts to communicate with animals or with ETs, time travel problems and so on. A wealth of experimental data (in a very easy to read style) is presented. Just one example of the work that is of relevance to many aspects of ufology will be given. Two people have to guess which are sick and which are healthy cells. If they guess right a bell 'dings'. A learns this way and so improves, but B gets false feedback and so does not. As the experiment proceeds we are shown how A will modify his simple and correct ideas in favour of the very complex (and wrong) theories devised by B to explain why he keeps failing! The doctor who conducted it concluded, "Once a tentative explanation has taken hold of our minds, information to the contrary may produce not corrections but elaborations of the explanation."

If you do not think that statement is greatly significant in a UFO context then this is not a book for you. On the other hand, if you do, then buy it!

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A LA FRANCE (2) The French UFO Federation

Whilst I think Britain pioneered the coming together of UFO groups (of NUFON) we seem to have been rather overtaken in that there are still factions within our ufology. Australia is now very together. America is even working hard to this end. And this French Federation (formed October 1980) is trying to bring unity. It has a very sound structure, including a board (which meets annually). This comprises 2 nominated members of each affiliated local group. Individual members are allowed into the Federation too and may between them nominate 2 representatives of their number to the board. All new groups/individuals must be sponsored by two current members of the federation in their application. An annual fee (about £5), per group or individual, offsets costs. The board plan policy and vote. They also elect a 12 member committee to run administration. In its 3 years the Federation has unified methodology of investigations and adopted a code of ethics (akin to the British one although not so far reaching). It looks promising. I wonder if we might contemplate formalising NUFON:UFO RESEARCH NORTH along these lines? Certainly this Federation arose out of an already existant informal system like NUFON. Comments from readers would be appreciated.

Jean-Pierre Troadec (Secretary) has published a booklet (in English) outlining in full detail the federation and its policies. Any NUFON member group who wishes to study the system may obtain one from him: 45 rue de Bon Pasteur, 69001 LYON, France.

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MEDIA MATTERS:—

A look at UFOs in the public eye



It has been a fairly busy time for UFO stories outside the rings affair (see page two). However, very few of them have been about sightings, sad to say.

Cont...

One that was, the full page item (News of the World, June 5) "Close Encounter at the Shamrock Cafe", a somewhat curious title as the encounter did not occur at the cafe, came as a surprise to most NUFORA members (including me) even though NUFORA was quoted in it fairly often. The paper did a surprisingly good job of summarising this July 1981 "CE4" (with which NUFON readers will be familiar from NUN 93). A full report will be published in this magazine when Harry Harris and co. complete their investigations.

The fact that the media can work wonders is shown by the South Bucks Star (June 17). Their reporter Alan Cleaver phoned me for a story to tie in with the forthcoming international congress. Perhaps it was the fact that Alan is a member of the NIC. But I was surprised to see a front page block headline "OUT OF THIS WORLD" (the only time I've ever seen a headline bigger than the story itself!) I referred to the Peter Day case as being of great interest and Peter Day wrote to the Star to point out that it was a shame his local movie film sighting would not be on the congress agenda. So the Star campaigned for him and next week announced, "UFO film man wins a hearing". Bob Digby, BUFORA Chairman, said, "We have bowed to pressure because there was such a lot of interest in this particular case".

I am not sure how much of a favour Lord Clancarty did for ufology telling Peter Tory of the Daily Mirror (Jul 5) that Earl Mountbatten used to, and Prince Philip still does....what, you may ask!! Read FSR is the answer. Serious ufologists 'in the know' have been aware of this for ages. But announcing it in the media seems to have only one likely outcome. The Prince will be advised this is not exactly a regal thing to do. Appearances must be kept up after all. Incidentally, I wonder how those who believe in 'cover-ups' square this? I mean, if the government did know the truth then surely someone would have told the Earl and the Prince? And if they know why should they want to read all about what those of us who don't know have to say?

Mind you, peers were in the news. The Times (no less) carried another UFO item (Jul 2) but only to, tongue in cheek, announce that the House of Lords UFO group was to be addressed by Norwegian ufologist Knut Aasheim. (I think readers were meant to imaginatively play around a bit with that name - a somewhat unfortunate one for a ufologist!)

But to show that silliness can be found in most places (not just Westminster) Girl About Town (Jun 20) tells of Brad Steiger's latest theories. Apparently (wait for it) many of us regularly encounter aliens every day. They take the form of dogs and cats and live with us, exhibiting remarkable powers. These 'space pets' "have far greater intelligence than normal pets", Steiger says. Now you know why they all prefer PAL dog food...it 'Prolongs Alien Life'. (See the case on pp 15)

[illegible]

EARTHLIGHTS...A THEORY BASED ON SAND?

By Ian Cresswell (PS by Ian Cresswell & Granville Oldroyd)

Reading Earthlights, by Paul Devereux, I found it very good in style and certainly worth spending some time on. Although the theory was fascinating I must admit there were times when it left me frustrated. I felt Paul was getting close to some possible truths about the UFO phenomenon and then moving away from them again.

It is reasonable to suggest that there could be a tectonic electrical/plasma discharge along the lines postulated. It is likely that a number of these light effects can at times be misinterpreted as UFOs. Furthermore, it seems possible that other electrical discharge phenomena (eg ball lightning) are also misunderstood at times as being UFOs, or even as being earthlights come to that. But I do not think the theory proves that the main core, objective phenomenon is caused in the manner proposed. The evidence proffered is not very convincing. For instance I was not at all happy with the laboratory test, which seems to be an important corner stone of the theory. A review of geological literature and views of geologists would have been useful, to see if this kind of effect was already known about.

Allowing that these electrical fields do exist just how common are they? They would have to be very common if they were to be a total explanation for the objective phenomenon. But the light effects reported in a UFO context seem much too varied to be explained in this one simple way. A clue might be found in the

Cont...

view at a speed "in excess of the many low level jets we see round here doing close on the speed of sound". It was fluorescent in colour with two tones, green and red. It had a short tail. It was in their sight for 10 seconds and moved on a horizontal path seeming to vanish into cloud. There was no sound at any point. Next day newspapers claimed to have solved the mystery, although these witnesses do not accept that solution. What do you think??? (See page 10)

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SKY NOTES (August & September 1983)

Compiled by: Peter Warrington FRAS

How useful do you find these notes? Please advise NUN and suggest any addition (Note how last time they may have solved two of 1982s best unknowns!!!)

NB Times are GMT 24hr clock. Latitude 52N is a line through Milton Keynes & Ipswich 56N through Edinburgh. Liverpool is approximately 53½ N. (Summer time GMT + 1h (Cases in NUN are normally quoted as local time, ie summer cases not in GMT))

<u>August</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rise</u>	52N	56N	<u>Set</u>	52N	56N
SUN.	1	4.20		4.01	19.52		20.10
	7	4.29		4.13	19.41		19.58
	14	4.40		4.26	19.28		19.42
	21	4.52		4.40	19.14		19.25
	28	5.03		4.54	18.59		19.08
MOON	1	22.53		22.44	12.12		12.19
	7	2.07		1.40	19.21		19.46
	14	11.58		12.03	22.10		21.59
	21	18.51		19.14	2.02		1.36
	28	20.58		20.50	10.02		10.08
<u>Sept</u> SUN	1	5.10		5.02	18.50		18.57
	7	5.19		5.14	18.36		18.42
	14	5.31		5.27	18.20		18.23
	21	5.42		5.41	18.03		18.04
	28	5.54		5.55	17.47		17.46
MOON	1	22.50		22.24	15.02		15.29
	7	5.20		5.11	19.16		19.22
	14	14.34		15.02	22.08		21.40
	21	18.20		18.26	4.22		4.12
	28	20.46		20.20	12.53		13.18



UFO ALERT!!!

12 SEP 1983

see below

Phases of the moon: The moon will be New (N) and Full (F) on: 8 AUG (19.18) (N) 23 AUG (14.59) (F); 7 SEP (02.35) (N); 22 SEP (06.36) (F)

Prominent planets... Venus: For first week of August visible setting just after the sun. Then it becomes invisible. During this week it will be at its brightest ever magnitude (-4.0). It reappears the beginning of September in the east before dawn. By the end of the month it will be in view 2½ hours pre dawn. Never underestimate its brilliance. The low elevation will enhance the illusion of movement it is prone to. So watch out!... Mars is not particularly bright but will be fairly prominent from late August onwards appearing in the east from about 03.00.

Jupiter is visible as a bright 'star' low in the SW. Magnitude -1.8. (See Note *)

Saturn also in SW in evenings, though dimmer. By late Sept will set before darkness

Note* On the evening of 12 SEP Jupiter is occulted by the moon, soon after dark. The crescent moon (almost first quarter) will seem to approach Jupiter (seen as a bright 'star') and pass in front of it. Thus for some time the two objects will appear close together in the sky. Try to observe this unusual event (easily visible to full beauty in binoculars). AND BEWARE!!!

From experience we know that the public frequently are taken unawares by the unexpected proximity of a bright object near the moon, even though it has been visible elsewhere in the sky. Reports of a UFO near the moon are expected.

SPOT THE UFO... Please turn the page upside down. then be compared.
 a log of all prominent meteor events for future reference. Old cases, when reported, spread of witnesses throughout Britain to the event. Investigators ought to have duration all support that this is what the media announced because of the This was almost certainly a bright fireball meteor. The description, behaviour, and

BRIEF CASES

:- Some current investigations



UFO reports continue at a generally low level in most places, although there are some signs of a pick-up, eg in Yorkshire. Publication of THE PENNINE UFO MYSTERY, in paperback, should help. An address is included for reports to be made and early indications (after 2 weeks) have suggested a few new cases will come this way. Already promising new close encounters have arrived and are under evaluation from investigators in Cheshire, South Yorkshire and Leicestershire. More may follow for your area. Mostly these are old cases being reported for the first time. But a few are not.

The tragic accident and possible UFO sighting at Huyton, Merseyside, reported in the previous issue is still not concluded. The inquest found an open verdict, which means no explanation is presently forthcoming for the two boys being killed by the 04.00 Liverpool-Manchester mail train (May 2). Norman Collinson, MUFORA investigator and himself a police officer, ascertained that the CID on Merseyside are still baffled. Their only 'lead' is that there were a number of motorbike thefts in the area and the boys may have been on the prowl looking for bikes to steal. Wearing crash helmets, and given the storm conditions, they could have failed to hear the train coming. The UFO sighting is not thought to be relevant.

I was given a lift to my radio show by one of my regular listeners who 'recognised' me, the other week. He is a Merseyside CID officer. Naturally I asked him about the case and he told me it was regarded as a real puzzle and the theft hypothesis was not considered probable. According to him the idea that they saw the reported UFO and fled in panic straight in front of the train has as much going for it as anything!

MUFORA investigations are to continue. If any more emerges we will report.

PAINTINGS FROM AFAR?

A strange case from the files of Nigel Watson

Several years ago Mrs AA was inspired to produce a painting of a "being" who visited her. However, it was not until a few years later that she began to produce regular pictures of "spiritual beings or guides". After completing a few of these she considered them to look unusual and so came to believe that she was painting space beings and space gods. She apparently became interested in the celestial nature of her oil paintings when she "began to have space dreams. These dreams are where I see space craft and beings sometimes watch or take part - and I write it all down in the morning." They wear unusual headresses and richly coloured garments and have



different coloured eyes and faces. The male beings often appear to wear earrings and beards. Some strange lettering appeared on their garments and she now produces a lot of "alien writing" which fills more than 52 pages of her note books. She has no idea what it means but hopes someone in the future will be able to translate it. She believes the originators of these messages to be "real people" and sees them often, both in dream state and awake. In one dream she saw a UFO come down, seen by all people on earth. The aliens wanted to help put the world to right. They wore suits with a kind of weapon and chased those who failed to accept them. She takes this to mean they will one day come in surprise. Any investigator who wishes to pursue this case contact Nigel (Westfield Cottage, Crowle Bank Rd, Althorpe, Humberside DN17 3EZ). Witness lives in East Anglia.

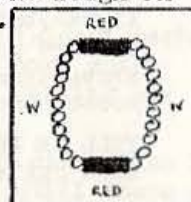
IRISH ENCOUNTERS OLD AND NEW... With thanks to Miles Johnston & Belfast News

Aerial activity in Ireland inevitably gets compared with the present day military situation. Could it have been a helicopter, for instance? But at least we can rule out all possibility of such an explanation for this first case.

"The great light"...It was Spring 1796, long before the word UFO was invented. George Blackler was returning to his home at Seagoe, near Portadown, as darkness fell when he saw a great, glowing light in the sky which made him fear his home was ablaze. But as he reached Seagoe he found startled villagers looking up at the bright object passing majestically across the sky. Several ran after it but it outpaced them all! It headed off towards Lurgan. The countryside was allegedly kept awake much of the night swapping tales from those who saw "the thing", as it later came to be called. People at Bannfoot, the western side of the River Bann, the surrounding hills and at Drummakelly all observed it. Much alarm ensued. A religious interpretation was put onto the event at the time, not surprisingly. The only obvious 'rational' explanation would seem to be a meteor. However, Armagh Observatory have no records that confirm this...and it seems unlikely that such a prominent meteor, if it were high in the sky and not therefore local to the Portadown area, would have been missed for what it was. Of course, if UAPs exist now then presumably they must have done in 1796 too!

"The UFO in the trees"...April 1980 and the observatory at Armagh, after a gap of 184 years, are back in the UFO investigation business. Donal Strain (aged 23) and two colleagues were relaxing in their kitchen at Ballinaskeagh after a day spent manuring. It was 3.30pm. They suddenly saw a grey, shiny object floating down out of the sky. On a windless day it came low down over a ditch and hovered, held at an angle. When the sun peeked out it simply shone reflectively, very bright. The three men went out into the yard, and then alongside it in the road. Their close-up view did not resolve the issue. It appeared like a grey car wheel but flatter. The 'UFO' then seemed to get caught up in a neighbour's tree. The neighbour and a friend were working in the garden so they were called to watch the object too. As they looked it freed itself and climbed higher and higher into the sky until the five bemused witnesses were left staring at thin air. Armagh Observatory were unable to explain it but added, "It certainly was not a flying object - such a craft would be picked up on radar long before it entered earth's atmosphere." Remarkably he went on to comment that he had not got a clue what it was... "but it certainly was not a flying saucer". I wish we had this ability to be so sure that Armagh Observatory seem to possess! As a thought - what about a balloon, such as those which SCUFORT and PROBE investigated in their indispensable UFO/IP booklet. (£1 from 16 Marigold Walk, Bristol BS3 2PD...if you don't have it GET IT!

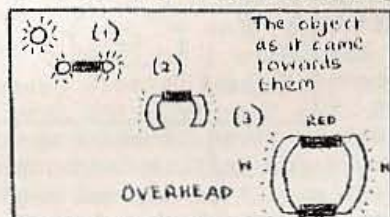
"The Lough Neagh UFO"...Coming right up to date, March 22 1983. Armagh Observatory are at it again! Their resident skeptic adamantly announced, "Most sightings of lights in the sky can be given some rational explanation and we certainly don't believe in flying saucers. But I couldn't really say what these lights were without seeing them for myself." Yet several witnesses did see them, especially on the shores around Lurgan and Craigavon. Two men in a car-park here at 19.00 saw 10 red lights "swarming like bees over trees in the south east of the lough". A larger light was seen above these flashing red, yellow and white. At 8pm they decided to drive home. As they passed down a country lane an object shaped like a rugby ball and twice the size of a helicopter began to 'buzz' them. It had two long, rectangular red lights and white lights in a circle between them. As they got to the main road the object left them. The army were insistent that it was not a helicopter and "I cannot give you any explanation. But it certainly wasn't the army". Readers might like to compare the close encounter object depicted above with the one shown on the next page, which also seemed to inspect a car on a country road (in England three months before.) The far from minor similarities are most interesting.



When you see 'coincidences' like this you do have to wonder if there might not, after all, be a real craft behind some of the strange reports!!

Cont...

Mr Low was puzzled by a very fast moving and irregularly flashing light. He took it to be a plane at first but its unusual nature (and its blue/green colour) were sufficient to cause him to stop the car, at a convenient in-lay off the road. The light vanished to the east. At this point Mrs Low commented on a bright white light immediately in front of them (SE). It was low down, very bright and at first seemed stationary. As they watched it was obvious that it was growing in size and then resolving into two white lights side by side. Mr Low at this



point decided to get out of the car. "Tell me if I'm seeing things" he requested, to be reassured he was not! Considering that the two lights were not moving in a straight line he tested the hypothesis by putting a comb on the roof of the car and using it to 'sight' the object. This proved that there was a zig-zag motion with the UFO following the line and then moving to the side, and then back again. It travelled in 'steps'.

The lights were following the valley heading NW and coming straight for them. The motion was majestically slow and quite silent, even when the object was directly overhead. Needless to say it is very quiet out on that moortop at night and there was no wind (it being a still, cold night with scattered cloud). As it approached Mrs Low and their son got out of the car. It now could be seen to consist of two half circles of white light, very bright, with a red rectangular strip between them. Directly overhead a second red strip at the rear was also visible. In shape it was like a rugby-ball (just as in the Irish case). Whilst directly overhead two white lights, side by side, streaked across the valley moving in the same direction. They much higher (above the cloud) and went past the slowly moving object in the direction it was heading. They took just 5 seconds to pass the 4 or 5 miles visible to them from SE to NW. These new lights frightened both Mrs Low and the child, whereas the object above them did not. Eventually the big 'craft' (for they were sure it was a real object) moved away and seemed to accelerate on leaving them, vanishing behind the hills in the Burnley direction. They did not hang about but drove straight home. Duration of sighting of the large object from first view in the SE to rapid disappearance to the NW was 8-10 minutes. They are sure this is not an exaggeration. They estimate height as about 1500 ft ASL (ie just 500 ft above them) and definitely well below cloud cover. They did not really wish to guess its size but feel it was bigger than a light aircraft, for instance. During their observation they contemplated explanations. There was never any question of it being an aircraft because it was totally unlike one, they say. No navigation or flashing lights were on it. They pondered a hang-glider, but whilst overhead they saw it clearly enough to dismiss that idea. And in any event who would hang-glide in the pitch dark over treacherous hilly terrain, with pylons and the like such as is found in this valley? MUFORA are satisfied this is a genuine observation by sincere and puzzled witnesses.

LOW DEFINITION FLASHING LITS.... MUFORA Investigations

8303 March 26 1983 Diggle, Ctr Manchester 01.30 to 02.00

An engineer driving home saw bright white LITS stationary in SE (almost certain Jupiter). On arrival home saw 3 blue lights in the NW with a dim grey shape behind them. The lights vanished. A TV mast is in the area he was looking at.

8302	April 10 1983	Rawtenstall, Lancs	23.00
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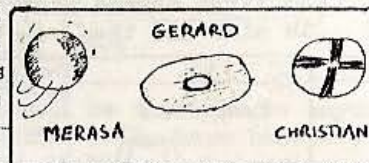
Mrs F returning from rehearsals saw a pulsing white light on top of Cribden Hill. She drove round the base of the hill and stopped her car. It was still there with no sound. After some moments it moved off slowly, still pulsing, and vanished behind hills above Rawtenstall. She has seen the object several times in the vicinity of Cribden. It seems to be a typical illustration that the "mystery helicopter" in the Pennines is still around.

[illegible]

THE CASE OF THE FLYING DOUGHNUT...Medium Definition Unknown

Case 8304: April 25 1983 08.45 Horton Bank, West Yorks Inv: Nigel Mortimer

Horton Bank lies just to the west of Bradford city overlooking open moor and hills. Mrs Merasa Kay and her 13 yr old twins (Christian and Gerard) were eating breakfast in their kitchen which has a window which offers a view over this terrain. Gerard was the first to see the object which he watched for a moment at close range (about the height of two rooftops). His description of it is somewhat different from that of his brother and his mother, whom he alerted some seconds later (as the object was moving further away). Duration was about 1 minute. The object moved off to the SW and was lost in cloud. No sound was heard at any time. Gerard describes it at first as like a purple/blue doughnut with a hole, or a "polo mint". Both Christian and Merasa saw it as a round shape that seemed to rotate and change colour through a sort of grey/black colour. When grey it seemed to emit light. Weather was dull and wet with low cloud in places. Mrs Kay reported the incident to the local paper who carried a short item but no other witnesses were forthcoming. Bradford police had no reports either, Leeds Bradford airport confirmed there was no air traffic in that area at the time and said no anomalous objects were seen on their operational radar. There does not seem any obvious explanation, unless it be one of those infernal balloons again... as Christians drawing in particular is reminiscent of one. However, against this is the fact that wind direction is recorded as from the SE. This object was heading to the SW. LEVEL A investigation.



UFO EFFECTS TV SIGNAL...CEL EM Unknown WYUFOS investigation

Case 8305: July 19 1983 21.30 Addingham, W. Yorks Inv: Nigel Mortimer

This close encounter is interesting for several reasons, not least being that strange objects have been reported in precisely the same location before! This location is a TV booster mast on the southern outskirts of this dales village (height about 1300' ASL). The only discovered witness (so far) to this observation is Jane, an auxiliary nurse at a large geriatric hospital. For some days prior to the incident the weather had been stormy, and it was also stormy afterwards for a few days (although at no point was TV reception impeded) On the day in question it was warm and clear. No storms. But Jane decided to look at the weather from her (open) bedroom window which gives an excellent view, southwards, of the moors and the TV mast. By its eastern side she saw hovering a rugby ball/oval object shining strongly with a bright light. She believes it was metallic. Indeed she says it was definitely not a balloon (which she has seen before) and was "heavy". It seemed to drift to the west, picking up speed as it did so and as it moved over hills it passed behind some trees and out of sight. It was consequently very low down. The brilliant glow lit up the dusk and illuminated the ground beneath the object. It 'transfixed' her and she kept thinking that it seemed 'unreal'. "I really was stunned", she said. Nigel Mortimer returned from a UFO investigation to his home, very close by, at the time of this sighting, but despite being within half a mile or less he saw nothing. But he did notice that the TV reception on all channels was very 'snowy'. Putting it down to bad weather elsewhere he turned off. Next day the set was fine. The object moved against a slight breeze so was powered in some way.

CASE HISTORY

THE INTERSTELLAR WAR ON BIDSTON HILL

A remarkable CE4 claim investigated by Jenny Randles

Seldom have I come across a case which even approaches this one for its high strangeness, although as to its credibility level... that is quite another thing!



Cont...

The case came to my attention following a Radio City programme about UFO abductions. On Jan 6 1983 I received a hand-written note without address, signed simply "B.I.R.", which said that "there is a family on the Wirral who are going through similar experiences to the Sunderlands. Unfortunately, they do not wish to be known at this time". The well written and reasoned letter referred to how my serious programme had helped their research. It looked too interesting to let go and so the next week I mentioned after my programme that if B.I.R. would like to contact me I would promise anonymity.

On January 12 B.I.R. (whom I shall from now on call Bob) turned up at my front door. The next several hours (some of which I tape recorded) saw him regale me with a fantastic tale. The family ("as I expect you have guessed" - he said) was his own. He followed this with other visits and I also received more hand-written material and confirmatory data from his wife (Bess). Their two children are both too young to be interviewed as yet.

To even summarise the claims this man makes would fill many pages. Briefly, he is 32, of nervous disposition, but seemingly rational (unless one counts as a prerequisite of rationality non-involvement in intergalactic wars!) At present he is unemployed although he has been in the army (he left after frequent psychic experiences seem to have made his colleagues hostile towards him). He has also moved around a lot (being born in Scotland and growing up in Nottingham). He presently lives with his wife in Rock Ferry, Wirral (although he eloped with her, he says, and they are not actually married).

His experiences began in 1959 (aged 8) when something he calls "Green eyes" - a manifestation like a ghost/vision that formed out of green mist - appeared in his bedroom and told him he 'did not belong here - you belong somewhere else'. His family put it all down to imagination (he admits he had a vivid one) and when a pixie (with a flute!) appeared one day as he went to the toilet this was too much for his father, who threw him against the wall in anger. The 'pixie' told him he would prove his reality and suggested if he climb on a chair he would find a bottle of whiskey on top of a cupboard. The pixie vanished and Bob did as suggested. There was a bottle (it was empty!)

I will skip over his youth (when amongst other things his life was saved by a 'being' after he was flattened by a truck and told by doctors he would never walk again... He did - the next day!) Although he had several (what seem to be) metachoric visions, or lucid dreams, involving ETs (as he calls them!) it was not until he moved to the Wirral in 1975 that his UFO encounters began. This is apparently because there is a "window" on Bidston Hill (a quite small hill and scene of several encounters over the years, it is true - eg see the first case in UFO REALITY) (I will avoid his complex theory about windows too - although of course to him it is a fact - it links the UFOs with their 'home', the Pyrenees in Spain, with a Deeside window and one in the North Sea... they use water, you see)

His many close encounters between 1976 and to date (several of which Bess supports) cannot all be mentioned. They include the time he went 'on impulse' (he does most things this way as he gets telepathic messages which he does not know about consciously) to the sea-front (ie beside the Mersey Estuary). Here a veritable UFO fleet paraded in front of them, and one (a concave disc) flew over their heads (to the chagrin of an old man nearby, who lost his hat in the sea in shock!) Said UFO hovered above their house and beamed a light ray down, before departing for the Bidston Hill window. The neighbours saw none of this, it seems. On arrival home two white 'spots' were found on the carpet (physical traces from the beam). Over the next few days these spread out and cleaned the carpet so it was all white and shiny (and the traces had of course gone).

His most recent escapades involve frequent visits to Bidston Hill (where there is a windmill and an oceanographic station). Here he sees UFOs, transparent little creatures with beaks (they carried him down off the hill once when he was 'zapped' by an alien ray-gun!). He has also encountered ETs in the forms he calls 'The Hairy Balloon' and 'The Hairy Pillar-box' (he killed one of the latter with PK!) But the most usual UFO occupant (if that is the right word - they tend to sit on top of the UFO and wave to him!) is called Algar. Bess has seen him too.

Cont...

Unfortunately Algar no longer is. He was killed (on October 4 1981) in a cosmic war that is going on! Earth sits in the middle (for now!) as a team of scientists fight with military leaders for possession of us. Bob, knowing so much, is a prime target of the 'baddies' and attempts on his life have already been tried but he has responded by killing at least two aliens. But he says he is not stupid enough to think he will survive for long.

But probably the weirdest of all experiences (if you forget the time he and Bess were 'abducted' from their beds to an alien storage depot beneath a lake near

Bolton...at Abram,in fact,see Jan/Feb NUN!!) is the time he and Bess went shopping in the Tesco hypermarket in Birkenhead.Here they met two 'aliens' in brown suits,who were frantically piling tin after tin of dog meat into the large shopping trolleys.Just dog food,masses of it (aparantly they were studying the kind of food we eat!).Telepathically they called themselves XY4 and XY5,but he did not answer and he heard one say "They must be sending someone to spy on us" Bob somberly advised me,"I did not tell anyone because you know what ufologists are like.They would have all gone to Tescos waiting for them and they were busy. That would never do." I could bot help smiling and adding..."Mmm, but it wouldn't have done Tesco's any harm - would it?"

What to make of all this is hard to say. Clearly, it is more than a little hard to believe that any of this is real in an objective sense. But that Bob (and to a point Bess) are caught up in all the fantastic things that continue to 'occur' (on some level of reality for them) seems unavoidable. I have refrained from inflicting the full, complex story on you as some readers might feel it is of dubious relevance to ufology. However, if any specialist magazine is interested in an in-depth review of the case then, upon request, I will provide it. For it might well prove instructive to somebody, somewhere. And I get the feeling that Bob and Bess would wish someone to take an interest.

I was offered the chance of becoming an 'apprentice', which I turned down. The side-effects seemed unacceptable. Bob continued to visit with 'messages' for me for a few weeks until he made the mistake of coming once whilst I was out all day and Paul was in. Paul, who is less tolerant of 'looneys' (his term, not mine) was at first reasonable, but when Bob was insistent and said he wanted me to see 'them', glancing at the sky, Paul told him if he did not go then he would be seeing 'them' himself, first hand...from "up there"! I think he got the message.

[illegible]

NEXT ISSUE...Report on the biggest inter-national UFO congress ever held in Britain.Plus Allen Hynek's two-week visit to the UK.And a newly discovered British radar/visual case from 1948...with all the other usual features.

CALENDAR...Sat Sept 24 2.30pm BUTORAS 21st Anniversary Conference at
Kensington Library, London...Lectures, slides, quizzes, goodies!
Sat Oct 8 6.30pm BUTORA lecture (London Business School, Sussex
Place, NW1) New venue & start-time for the new series of lectures
'UFOs & Hallucinations', Dr Sue Blackmore (Bristol University)

UFO RESEARCH NORTH... NUFON

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 MIGAP (Mersey) 133 Hinckley Rd Islands Brow St Helens WALL 8JX
 NUTORA (Gt M/Cr,Cheshire) 5 North Ave Burnage Manchester M19 2WR
 WYUPOS (N&W Yorks) 33 Green Lane Addingham Ilkley W.Yorks LS29 0JH
 TYUPOS (Pennine) 3 Harley Villas Victoria Rd Todmorden Yorks OL14 8JB
 SSPR (S.Yorks) 17 Old Quarry Ave Wales Sheffield S31 8RW
 SUPORA (Humberside) Westfield Cottage Crowle Bank Rd Althorpe DN17 3HZ
 NUF0IS (Notts & Derby) * 433 Meadow Lane Nottingham NG2 3GB (* NUFON File)